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(72) Inventor(s):

Robert Harvey Rines

(73) Proprietor(s):

Robert Harvey Rines
24 Warren Street, Concord,
New Hampshire 03301,
United States of America

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service:

MacLeod Allsop
Lower High Street, BURFORD,
Oxfordshire, OX18 4RR, United Kingdom

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Electronic & Acoustic Reading of Printed Material

The present invention relates to supplementing the written or printed descriptions read by a reader of books and the like, with video screen presentations and illustrations and related displays of supplemental materials that may be viewed by the book reader and that specifically relate to and supplement the specific subject matter of the respective written descriptions or passages on a page or pages – all at the option and will of the reader. The invention is particularly directed to bringing the written words "alive" through enabling contemporaneous viewing of pre-assembled and stored illustrations with or without sound description, such as video, motion picture or other illustrative or documentary materials and the like, that can provide a "live" video/audio played-back supplement to the content of the specific passages read by the reader for enriching the reading process. That reading process can then continue after the relevant supplementary material has been accessed and viewed as on a CD or DVD player or the like.

Background

Since the invention of the printing press, for many centuries, books have been published and disseminated with all kinds of illustrations, drawings and

even separate supplementary materials. Often books are accompanied by records and tapes and videos which can be supplementary to the material in the text or used in parallel therewith, such as for singing or playing successive songs, the words of which may be in the printed text, or other such interaction or entertainment.

In the computer area, electronic links are provided in the textual electronically printed or displayed written text material or screens for electronically linking to other "pages" of stored material as in the web and otherwise, so that a reader of the screen text can obtain supplementary materials and information, often animated or audibly or visually active.

The problem of the reader associating such supplementary and illustrative and played-back performing materials from stored materials has not, however, heretofore been totally integrated with the text material or the normal reading thereof, or for repeated accessibility and in any order and at any time, and in a user- friendly and flexible manner – all under the reader's control.

It is to these considerations that the present invention, accordingly, is primarily directed; it being conceived that the reader of a book or other textual material may wish readily to access, re-access (and in any order), and view supplemental related subject matter illustrations, photographs, audio and visual supplementary information expanding upon the read passages after or while reading such particular passages of the text. If the reader desires to exercise such an option, the invention enables the reader right then and there, and with

immediate association with the textual material that has been read and as to which the reader would like further supplementary related subject-matter visual and audio materials, to depart from the reading of the book and automatically view relevant recorded analog or preferably digital tracks of a CD or DVD or other similar medium that builds upon the written textual passage or portion of the book that has just been read – and to do so at any time and in any accessing order.

This enables much more material to be available than the practical preparation of a book and its printing can accommodate, and, in addition, provides a very inexpensive and potentially large library of such supplementary illustrative materials which just cannot be published in any one book or even collection of books, economically or physically. In preparing a book or a text, furthermore, copious editing is required which is time-consuming and expensive and invariably results in required omissions of materials dictated by the limitations of the production and commercial nature of the book or other publication. The use of DVD, CD or other storage memories, however, is ideal for massive track-coded storage of accumulated supplemental data – photo albums, illustrations, videos, movies, documents, audio and other visual material storage – even in unedited form – which are still extremely interesting to the reader who elects to supplement the reading of specific subject-matter written passages of the text with contemporaneous viewing and hearing of such a collection of subject-matter-related memorabilia and illustrations. The "live"

access to the contemporaneous reproducing of such pre-recorded supplemental materials provides an enjoyable addition and informational supplement to the specific material read in the book passage. This then provides an inexpensive and instantly subject-matter accessible coded "album" available to the book purchaser which is not currently available when books are published and distributed for reading.

The invention, furthermore, provides for a very user-friendly and compact supplementary means for the reader to continue in the mode of centuries in picking up a book and reading anywhere at all – but being provided with access to such relevant supplementary remotely stored materials simply by visual code, link or similar representations or indicia printed in the margin of the book in association with the text passages describing a particular subject matter or events, and which indicia the reader can instantly electronically scan and automatically thereby communicate for remote access to coded recorded tracks, corresponding to the respective coded indicia, of the conventional CD, DVD player or similar media player, including the before-mentioned material storable on the internet web, to which the book reader invariably has access in the home or other location.

While this invention is particularly useful for the commercial book and related publishing business, the invention is also useful for the family and the amateur wishing to organize all of the photographs, videos, movies and other materials of meaning to the family as a diary or other record of family events for

reliving recollections of family history and events. Again, for the use of CD, DVD or other similar coded-track storage of all of the familial photographs and videos, memorabilia and so forth, editing and even chronology are not required. The coded indicia placed in the margin of the books, diary or other records will be keyed to particular correspondingly coded tracks or areas of the recorded supplementary CD, DVD or other material, which greatly simplifies and obviates the need for indexing and the time and effort involved in the preparation of the same.

While reference has been made herein to "books" or computer or other electronic "screens", diaries or other physically printed or written or electronically printed and displayed text materials and the like, all such shall be understood to be generically sometimes referred to herein as simply "books" and embraced within that term; similarly, the electronic media for storing and then replaying the relevant before-mentioned remotely stored supplementary material, photographs, documents, audio - video tapes, movies, web etc. are also hereinafter sometimes generically referred to as supplementary pre-recorded or stored visual or video/audio materials and the like.

Objects Of Invention

It is therefore a primary object of the present invention to expand the access to information and supplementary information that a reader of the book may be interested in pursuing upon reading a particular portion or passage of

the book and contemporaneously desiring to view and hear supplementary material specifically related to or expanding upon the specific subject matter of the read portion or passage; the invention providing a novel method of and apparatus for expanding the reading enjoyment and education of the book reader in a user-friendly manner and without departing from the centuries old format of a book (or the format of electronic printed materials and computer and other screen displays).

A further object is to provide such a novel method that simplifies the necessity for indexing of supplementary materials or the chronological ordering of such in supplemental media and the like for use with the book through the use of appropriate code indicia actually printed or impressed or otherwise marked on the margin or free space of the book in apposition to or near or in the specific passage(s) text material, the specific subject matter of which, the reader opts to seek visual/audio supplementation, and in any order and with infinite repetition or timing to increase enjoyment and understanding.

Still an additional object is to provide a new and improved "book" or the like that inherently links to external supplemental pre-recorded materials that the publication of the book did not physically or economically permit to be included therein.

Other and further objects will be explained hereinafter and will be pointed out particularly in connection with the appended claims.

Summary

In summary, however, from one of its important aspects, the invention embraces in one of its most general and preferred formats, a method of supplementing the materials of various passages of different printed book descriptive materials during a reader's reading of the same, with visual supplemental materials, optionally with audio, correspondingly specifically related to and/or expanding upon the specific subject matter of the various passages of printed descriptive materials, that comprises, electronically storing on tracks of a recorded storage medium, pluralities of such visual supplemental information, each so related specifically to the subject matter of a different corresponding passage of the printed descriptive material in the book, and provided with accessing coding specific to each such track of the medium; printing or otherwise applying and displaying on the pages of the book alongside each of the various descriptive material passages, an electronically readable code indicia corresponding specifically to that coded track of the medium containing the recorded specific visual/audio supplemental material related to the corresponding specific printed descriptive material passage; providing an electronic wand for remotely selectively accessing the respective tracks of a medium player available to the book reader, and controlling the visual/audio playing of the same for displaying/reproducing to the reader said supplemental visual information recorded on the respective tracks; and further providing to the book reader an electronic reader of said coded indicia, adapted

to actuate the electronic wand to play back respective coded tracks of the medium in the player in accordance with the book reader applying the electronic indicia reader to the respective code indicia in the book, thereby to enable the book reader, contemporaneously with reading, to watch/listen to the played-back visual/audio supplemental material and while, if desired, continuing the facility for simultaneously re-reading the corresponding printed passage in the book during, before or after such playback.

As later discussed, the electronic reader and communicator for storage medium track selection may, in some instances, be replaced by voice command communication and recognition for achieving such storage-medium track selection.

Preferred and best mode designs and implementations of the invention are later fully detailed.

Drawing

The invention will now be described in connection with the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 of which provides a schematic diagram of a preferred implementation of the invention, and Figure 2, a modification adapted for voice-command control.

Description of Preferred Embodiments

Referring to Figure 1 of the drawing, conventional facing pages of a printed book B are shown having textual written or printed portions T that a reader may read in the conventional use of the book. Should the reader desire to see pictures or other visual materials, videos or movies, or to hear audio tapes or records, or to see supplementary documents or the like that specifically relate to or supplement specific subject-matter passages or portions of this textual portion T, such as the upper left-hand passages P2 or the lower right - hand passages P1, for example, of specific different respective subject matter, the invention provides for respective coded indicia or markers, C2, C1, etc. as in the margins of the book adjacent or near the respective subject matter T passages P2, P1, etc. These coded indicia may be printed in barcode or other coded format link which is keyed to respective coded tracks T2, T1, etc. of a CD, DVD or the like containing corresponding respective subject-matter supplemented material pre-recorded on a storage medium M, such as on a CD disc or DVD or the like.

The disc or other track-coded storage medium is shown within a player P, shown remote but accessible to the book reader and with conventional visual (video)/audio or (sound) reproducing and display screens, including, computer and television interfacing. The operation actuation of the medium track is effected from a wand W controlling the accessing and live playing back of the respective tracks T1, T2, etc. of the storage medium M by wired, remote or wireless communication, schematically represented at C, as is well known.

Suitable wand types, for example, may be the Radio Shack (2004) infrared remote models 15-2116, 15-2129 and 15-2138 among others.

The control of the wand W to playback the respective tracks of the medium M containing respective pre-recorded supplemental material related to or expanding upon the specific corresponding respective subject matters of the passages P1, P2, etc. is, in turn, controlled by an electronic code indicia reader R provided to the book reader and which activates the wand W, again by wired, remote or wireless communication, schematically indicated at C1.

Thus, once the book reader has read the particular subject matter of, say, passage P1 and desires to view/hear supplemental material as to that specific subject matter – for example, pictures or a video clip with sound – the book reader thereupon scans with the hand-held reader R the code indicia C1 (bar code unique symbol or the like) printed or otherwise affixed in the margin near the passage P1, as shown, and thereby activates the wand W to communicate with and select and trigger the playback on the player P of the corresponding visual/audio supplemental material as to that specific matter described in passage P1 that has been pre-recorded on the corresponding track T1 of the medium M. Similarly, the book reader, having earlier read about different subject matter in written passage P2, may wish to view/hear supplemental material as to that subject matter that has been pre-recorded on corresponding coded track T2 of the medium M. This is effected by the reader scanning the electronic reader R over the coded indicia P2 that will cause the wand W to

access the corresponding coded track T2 of the medium M on which has been stored the corresponding supplemental material relating to or expanding upon the specific subject matter of the passage P2.

The book reader, moreover, may repeatedly access such supplemental material, and may access at any time and in any order whatsoever, as desired.

The invention, in summary, thus provides a cooperative method and apparatus for supplementing the materials of various passages of different printed book descriptive materials P1, P2, etc. during a reader's reading of the same, with visual supplemental materials and optionally with audio, correspondingly specifically related to and/or expanding upon the specific different subject matters of the various different passages P1, P2, etc. of the printed (written) descriptive materials T. As previously described, the electronic prerecording in the storage medium M, of corresponding pluralities of such visual supplemental information, each related specifically to the subject matter of a different corresponding passage P1, P2, etc. of the printed descriptive material T in the book B, is stored along correspondingly recorded tracks of the recorded storage medium M -- with coding - specific conventional wand-accessing to each such corresponding track T1, T2, etc. of the medium M. On the pages of the book alongside each of the various descriptive material passages P1, P2, etc., as earlier explained, there has been printed or applied or displayed electronically readable code indicia C1, C2, etc. corresponding specifically and respectively to the coded tracks T1, T2, etc. of the medium M containing the recorded specific visual

supplemental material related to the corresponding specific printed descriptive material passage. The electronic wand W thus remotely selectively accesses the tracks T1, T2, etc. of the playback displayer P and controls the visual/audio playing of the same for reproducing and displaying to the book reader the appropriate related supplemental visual information upon the playback displayer. The book reader, with the hand-held electronic reader R, simply scans the desired coded indicia C1, C2, etc., thereby controlling the wand W to actuate the corresponding playback tracks T1, T2, etc. of the medium M in the player P and thereby enable the book reader to watch "live" and listen to the appropriate played-back visual supplemental material. If desired, moreover, the reader may maintain the continued facility for simultaneously re-reading of the corresponding printed passages P1, P2, etc. during, before, or after such playback -- all at the option of and under the control of the book reader.

In practical implementations, the electronic reader R may be a portable hand-held miniaturized element as shown, communicating with (commanding) the wand W, with the wand in any of wired, remote or wireless communication with the player P as is widely done today. If desired, the electronic reader R and wand W may be integrally packaged as a single hand-held longitudinal tool, storable with the book B or connected by a cord thereto (not shown) or detachably held.

As before explained, the underlying concept of the invention is not, however, restricted to the format of a conventional book, as shown for

illustrative purposes – printed, handwritten or having other impressed text.

A modification of the present invention, presented in Figure 2, may also achieve the same broad objectives and advantages, but can do so without requiring either electronic coded-indicia reader or the wireless electronic wand communication components or their functions to access the desired recorded track of the player, as above-described – in fact, requires no auxiliary components whatsoever for the book reader – only the book itself.

This novel result is achieved in the present invention, by applying coded indicia in the book that are visually readable and also are vocally and uniquely pronounceable by the book reader, so as to transmit the vocal acoustical pronouncement of the indicia word(s) or phrases or numbers or sound(s) or combination thereof, for remote reception and recognition by a remote voice-recognition switch controlling the medium player track selection. While I have earlier proposed the use of appropriate voice commands by a vehicle driver, automatically through such voice-recognition switching selectively to turn on



entertainment deck and cell phone instruments in vehicles so as to avoid driver distraction, as, for example, in US Patent No. 6,002,558, this type of concept, appropriately modified, can now enable a book reader, merely by pronouncing the code word(s) or number or other indicia displayed in the book margin or the like, to cause a remote voice-command recognition switch at the player to access the corresponding recorded coded track and to trigger or control its playing of the selected corresponding supplemental visual material for the reader.

As earlier stated, the use of such remote voice switching relieves the book reader of the necessity for any auxiliary equipment (code indicia reader, remote-control communication wand) other than the book itself, to access the display of related supplemental material.

It is a further object of the present invention, accordingly, to provide a new and improved method of and apparatus for providing a book reader with visual material or other supplementation of the book passages by mere reader voice command communication -- the mere audible pronouncing of coded or selected words or the like (indicia) printed in the book in relation to the selected read book passage(s), for remote voice-recognition switching control of the selected pre-recorded coded tracks stored at the player for thereupon providing the book reader with the corresponding visual material supplementations to the selected book passage content afforded by the playing and display of such

selected visual materials on the reader's desktop or other computer or TV or other disc player display.

In this form of the invention, there are placed on the pages, respective voice-pronounceable coded indicia corresponding to the respective various subject-matter passages in the book, thereby to enable the book reader, contemporaneously with reading, to vocally pronounce selected indicia. There is then remote recognizing of the reader's voice pronouncement at the player to access the corresponding coded track and thereby enable the book reader to watch/listen to the played-back visual/audio supplemental corresponding material and while, if desired, again continuing the facility for simultaneously re-reading the corresponding printed passage in the book during, before or after such playback.

Referring to the modification of Figure 2 of the drawings, conventional facing pages of a printed book B are again shown having textual written or printed portions T that a reader may read in the conventional use of the book. Should the reader desire to see pictures or other visual materials, videos or movies, and/or to hear audio tapes or records, or to see supplementary documents or the like that specifically relate to or supplement specific subject-matter passages or portions of this textual portion T, such as the upper left-hand passages P2 or the lower right - hand passages P1, for example, of specific different respective subject matter, this modification of the invention provides also for respective coded indicia or markers, C2, C1, etc. as in the margins of the

book adjacent or near or even in or within the respective subject matter passages P2, P1, etc. These coded indicia may be printed or otherwise applied in accordance with the present invention, and are made not only readable by the reader, but must be vocally pronounceable by the reader, and they are keyed to respective coded tracks T2, T1, etc. of a CD, DVD or the like containing corresponding respective subject-matter supplemented material pre-recorded on a storage medium M, such as on a CD disc or DVD or the like and including the before-mentioned material from web storage; and the term "indicia" is herein used in a generic sense, also, as in the case of Figure 1, to embrace symbols, words, numbers, phrases or combinations thereof including words of the selected text passages themselves, if desired.

The disc or other track-coded storage medium is shown within a player P accessible to the book reader and with conventional visual (video)/audio or (sound or acoustic) reproducing and display screens, including computer and television interfacing as in Figure 1. The operational actuation of the medium track is effected conventionally, but in accordance with this version of the present invention, under the control of voice-recognition chips at the remote player that receive and recognize the respective reader-spoken words, numbers, phrases, etc. representing the corresponding code indicia in the book (as in the margin or, if desired, within the text passage), selected and vocally read off by the book reader. This, in response to the reader's vocally pronounced coded indicia, enables the automatic remote accessing and live playing back of the

respective correspondingly coded tracks T1, T2, etc. of the storage medium M in well-known fashion.

Thus, once the book reader has read the particular subject matter of, say, passage P1 and desires to view/hear supplemental visual material as to that specific subject matter – for example, pictures or a video clip with sound – the book reader thereupon reads and speaks out loud the code indicia “C1” printed or otherwise presented near or within the passage P1 and thereby activates the remote voice-recognition switch selection and triggering of the playback on the player P of the corresponding visual/audio supplemental material as to that specific matter described in passage P1 that has been pre-recorded on the corresponding track T1 of the medium M. Similarly, the book reader, having earlier read about different subject matter in written passage P2, may wish to view/hear supplemental material as to that subject matter that has been pre-recorded and stored on corresponding coded track T2 of the medium M. This is effected by the reader audibly pronouncing the coded indicia “C2”. This will be received and voice-recognized at the player to access the corresponding coded track T2 of the medium M on which has been stored the corresponding supplemental material relating to or expanding upon the specific subject matter of the passage P2.

The reader of the book, moreover, may repeatedly thus vocally access such supplemental material, and may access at any time and in any order whatsoever, as desired.

Both versions of the invention, in summary, thus provide the before-described cooperative method of and apparatus for supplementing the materials of various passages of different printed book descriptive materials P1, P2, etc. during a reader's reading of the same, with visual supplemental materials and optionally with audio, correspondingly specifically related to and/or expanding upon the specific different subject matters of the various different passages P1, P2, etc. of the printed (written) descriptive materials T. As previously described, the electronic prerecording in the storage medium M of corresponding pluralities of such visual supplemental information, each related specifically to the subject matter of a different corresponding passage P1, P2, etc. of the printed descriptive material T in the book B, is stored along correspondingly recorded tracks of the recorded storage medium M – with coding - specific electronically recognized (Figure 1) or voice-recognition reader-spoken instruction or voice-command recognized (Figure 2) accessing to each such corresponding coded track T1, T2, etc. of the medium M. On the pages of the book alongside or within each of the various descriptive material passages P1, P2, etc., as earlier explained, there has been provided either electronically readable and electronically or wireless communicated command code indicia (Figure 1), or spoken voice recognizable command (Figure 2) code indicia C1, C2, etc. corresponding specifically and respectively to the coded tracks T1, T2, etc. of the medium M containing the recorded specific visual supplemental material related to the corresponding specific printed descriptive material passage. The received and recognized

electronically read and communicated command codes (Figure 1), or the reader-spoken voice command communicated codes (Figure 2) selectively access the tracks T1, T2, etc. of the playback displayer P and control the visual/audio playing of the same for reproducing and displaying to the book reader the appropriate related supplemental visual information upon the playback displayer; thereby enabling the book reader to watch "live" and listen to the appropriate played-back visual supplemental material. If desired, moreover, as earlier noted, the reader may maintain the continued facility for simultaneously re-reading of the corresponding printed passages P1, P2, etc. during, before, or after such playback - - all at the option of and under the control of the book reader.

In practical implementation of the embodiment of Figure 2, suitable voice-command recognition switches and controls may be, for example, of the types described in said U.S. patent, and other voice-recognition and responding controls such as effected in ScanSoft Inc. of Peabody Massachusetts "Dragon-Naturally Speaking" software, version 7.0.

Further modifications will also occur to those skilled in this art and such are considered to fall within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

CLAIMS

1. A method of supplementing the materials of various passages of different printed
5 book descriptive materials during a reader's reading of the same, with visual supplemental
materials, and optionally with audio, correspondingly specifically related to and/or
expanding upon the specific subject matter of the various passages of printed descriptive
materials, that comprises, electronically storing on tracks of a recorded storage medium
pluralities of such visual supplemental information, each so related specifically to the
10 subject matter of different corresponding passages of the printed descriptive material in
the book, and provided with accessing coding specific to each such track of the medium;
printing or otherwise applying and displaying on the pages of the book alongside each of
the various descriptive material passages, an electronically readable code indicia
corresponding specifically to that coded track of the medium containing the recorded
15 specific visual/audio supplemental material related to the corresponding specific printed
descriptive material passage; providing an electronic wand for remotely selectively
accessing the respective tracks of a medium player available to the book reader, and
controlling the visual/audio playing of the same for displaying/reproducing to the reader
said supplemental visual information recorded on the respective tracks; and further
20 providing to the book reader an electronic reader of said coded indicia, adapted to actuate
the electronic wand to playback respective coded tracks of the medium in the player in
accordance with the book reader applying the electronic indicia reader to the respective
code indicia in the book, thereby to enable the book reader, contemporaneously with
reading, to watch/listen to the played-back visual/audio supplemental material and while,
25 if desired, continuing the facility for simultaneously re-reading the corresponding printed
passage in the book during, before or after such playback, characterised in that said
coded indicia is in the form of barcodes and that the book reader's application of the

electronic code indicia reader to a selected one of said barcodes, automatically also actuates the wand in turn to actuate the player to select and play the respective recorded track on the medium corresponding to the book reader's selected barcode.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the electronically readable code indicia are applied
5 in the book to the unprinted margins or spaces of the book pages near the corresponding printed passages.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic reader is a portable hand-held miniaturised element in wired, remote or wireless communication with the wand, and the wand is in wired, remote or wireless communication with the player.

10 4. The method of claim 1 wherein at least the electronic reader is provided with the book.

5. Apparatus for supplementing the materials of various passages of different printed book descriptive materials during a reader's reading of the same, with visual supplemental materials, optionally with audio, correspondingly specifically related to and/or expanding
15 upon the specific subject matter of the various passages of printed descriptive materials, having, in combination, an electronically recorded storage medium storing tracks of pluralities of such visual supplemental information, each so related specifically to the subject matter of a different corresponding passage of the printed descriptive material in the book, and provided with accessing coding specific to each such track of the medium;

20 electronically readable code indicia printed or otherwise applied and displayed on the pages of the book alongside each of the various descriptive material passages, the indicia corresponding specifically to that coded track of the medium containing the recorded specific visual/audio supplemental material related to the corresponding specific printed descriptive material passage; an electronic wand for remotely selectively accessing the
25 respective tracks of a medium player available to the book reader, and for controlling the visual/audio playing of the same for displaying/reproducing to the reader said

supplemental visual information recorded on the respective tracks; and an electronic reader of said coded indicia, adapted for the reader to actuate the electronic wand to play back respective coded tracks of the medium in the player in accordance with the book reader applying the electronic indicia reader to the respective code indicia in the book,

5 thereby to enable the book reader, contemporaneously with reading, to watch/listen to the played-back visual/audio supplemental material and while, if desired, continuing the facility for simultaneously re-reading the corresponding printed passage in the book during, before or after such playback, characterised in that said coded indicia is in the form of barcodes and that the book reader's application of the electronic code indicia

10 reader to a selected one of said barcodes, automatically also actuates the wand in turn to actuate the player to select and play the respective recorded track on the medium corresponding to the book reader's selected barcode.



6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the electronically readable code indicia are applied in the book to the unprinted margins or spaces of the book pages near the

15 corresponding related printed passages.



7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the electronic reader is a portable hand-held miniaturised element in wired, remote or wireless communication with the wand, and the wand is in wired, remote or wireless communication with the player.



8. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein at least the electronic reader is provided with

20 the book.

9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein either the electronic reader alone or the reader and wand are packaged in the form of a hand-held tool.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the hand-held package is of longitudinal shape storable with the book.

25 11. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the hand-held package is connected by a cord to the book.

12. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the tool is detachably connectable to the book.



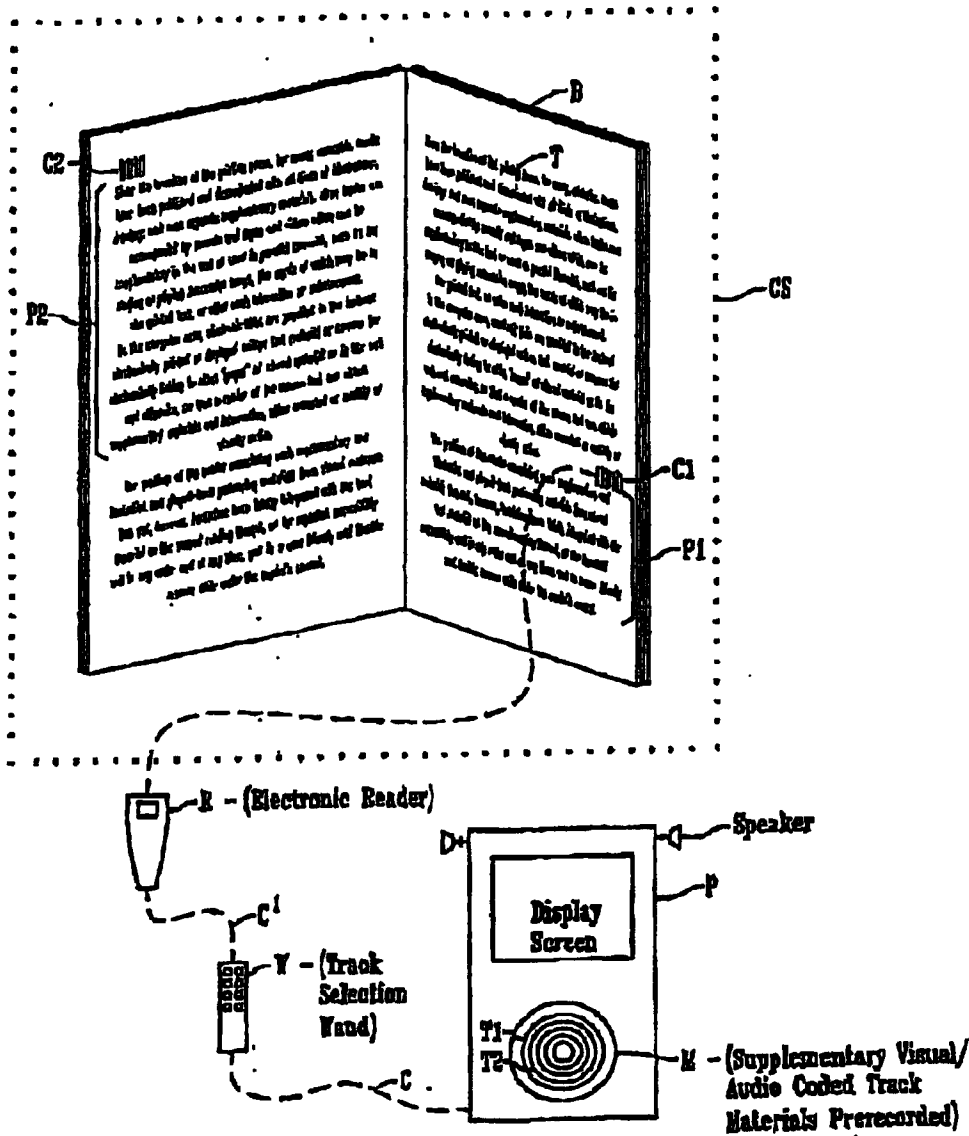


Figure 1

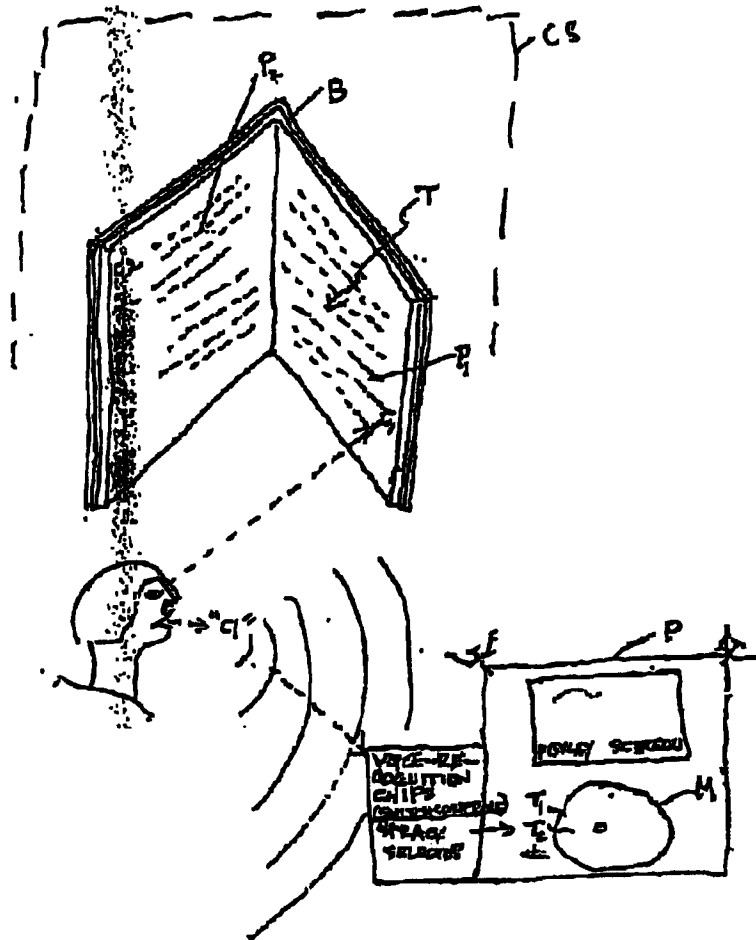


Figure 2